

# Section 1

## Threatened and Endangered Species List

Passage of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 gave the United States one of the most far-reaching laws ever enacted by any country to prevent the extinction of imperiled animals and plants. Under the law, the Secretary of the Interior acting through the Fish and Wildlife Service, has broad powers to protect and conserve all forms of wildlife and plants found in serious jeopardy. The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the National Marine Fisheries Service, has similar authority for protecting and conserving most marine life.

Congress addressed the question of why we should save the endangered species in the preamble to the Endangered Species Act, holding that endangered and threatened species of fish, wildlife and plants "are of aesthetic, ecological, educational, historical, recreational, and scientific value to the Nation and its people." In making this statement, Congress was summarizing a number of convincing arguments advanced by thoughtful scientist, conservationist, and others who are greatly concerned by the disappearance of wildlife.

The fish and Wildlife Service follows a formal "rulemaking" procedure in determining which species should be placed on the U. S. List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife Plants. The Act defines an endangered species as one that is in danger of extinction throughout all of a significant portion of its range. A threatened species is defined as one that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.

A "rulemaking" is the process used by the Federal agencies (and many States) to propose and later adopt regulations which have the effect of law, and apply to all United States residents. The proposed rule is published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, a daily government publication, to provide public notification and a specific time period to receive comments. The proposal is then reevaluated, and if adopted, is published again as a final rule. Endangered or threatened species are placed on the list, reclassified, or deleted through this process.

This section references the current list of endangered and threatened species for Georgia. Also, Georgia has a state list of protected plants and animals. These protected plants and animals can be found in the publication listed under the reference heading.

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### Reference List

Information under this heading is to be included and filed in the Numerical List of References. It is to be cross-referenced here and may be cross-referenced to a Subject List or other grouping.

Reference Number	Title
1	<i>Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Species in Georgia.</i> USDA Soil Conservation Service. Athens, Georgia. 1992
2	<i>Protected Plants in Georgia.</i> Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wild Resources Division, Georgia Natural Heritage Program. 1995
3	<i>Protected Animals of Georgia.</i> Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division. 1999.

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